

Working together is success.

— Henry Ford



Town of Exeter
New Hampshire

April 30, 2016

Primex³
NH Public Risk Management Exchange

Center for
Public Sector
Advancement

Promoting Excellence in the Public Sector

Purpose and Intended Result of the Session

The purpose of the session was for the Board and Town Manager to come together to lay the horizon for the Town and establish goals and strategies that will help guide the Town over the next twelve (12) months.

Participants

Julie Gilman, Vice-Chairman

Donald Clement, Board of Selectmen

Anne Surman, Board of Selectmen

Nancy Belanger, Clerk

Dan Chartrand, Chairman

Russ Dean, Town Manager

The exercise was facilitated by:

Rick Alpers, Risk Management Consultant, Primex³

Shelley Walts, Member Service Consultant, Primex³

2015 Goals Review Discussion

The session began with the Board of Selectmen and Town Manager reviewing the successful goals for 2015 and to identify any goals to continue working on along with the goals identified for 2016.

Grow and Improve Relationship with major Industries in Town – Goal Partially Achieved

- **Exeter School Board** - not as much engagement as hoped. Full day Kindergarten was passed by the Town.
- **Philips Exeter Academy** - good collaboration with Academy with ongoing improved communications.
- **Exeter Hospital** - good working relationship.
- **River Woods** - Very good relationship. Active with group on events and committees along with a great volunteer base.

*Will continue to work with these organizations to develop relationships and for assistance on committees such as the Steering Committee for the Master Plan.

Regional Waste Water Treatment Solution – Goal Achieved

Town voted to move forward on its own to build a new waste water treatment plant.

Water Purchase with Stratham – Goal Achieved

While Exeter voters agreed the Town of Stratham returned a “no” vote. Exeter moved forward on its own. Continued talks still on going with Stratham on water and sewer joint ventures.

Planning Department Complete Operations Review – Goal Achieved

- MRI completed Report
- New Planner was hired
- Continue to review operations and process issues
- Working with housing Committee to provide data

General Topics for Discussion for 2016

Top 2-3 Priorities for 2016

Each Board member and the Town Manager identified their individual 2-3 priorities for the Town of Exeter to focus on in 2016.

Don Clement

1. Structure and Process of Economic Development
2. Economic Development Strategic Plan to be reviewed by Board of Selectmen and then supported
3. Vision and Mission for town
4. Master Plan Update
5. Improved Communication both internal and external

Dan Chartrand

1. Wetland Zoning concerns on Epping Road to unlock TIF – expand commercial and mixed use base
2. Take advantage of low interest rates to accelerate Capital Improvements
3. Master Plan Update- Consider adding sections on Housing Committee, Economic Development Strategic Plan

Julie Gilman

1. Work with State on legislation that directly affects Exeter
2. Work with Exeter hospital on the ever changing demographics of Exeter
3. Zoning to be fine tuned
4. New Town Manager Contract

Anne Surman

1. Master Plan in relation to Philips Exeter Academy - working together
2. Modeling of neighborhoods - Zoning
3. Develop a marketing plan for the town that includes a section on community development while working alongside the Chamber of Commerce to produce the plan.

Nancy Belanger

1. Work to identify areas of town that could benefit from an improved traffic flow
2. MRI Report - Roles within Town: Board of Selectmen, Committees, Commissions
Develop Training / handbook to foster volunteerism
3. Continue to review and support Recreation Department Plan and Improvements
4. Board of Selectmen to-do list calendar - dates of upcoming events, meetings, evaluations, contracts, etc.
5. Water/Sewer Rate Study

Russ Dean

1. Continue to Improve Economic Development Plan
2. Participate in Economic Development Strategic Plan as part of Master Plan
3. Maintain Community Relations and Improve on outreach
4. Facilities Plan - Audit completed

Top 2016 Goals

The Board of Selectmen and the Town Manager identified the top goals for the Town of Exeter and to develop a work plan. The goals were formulated from the individual goals listed above. The goals and deadline for an update or completion are listed below.

GOAL #1: *Master Plan Update*

- Board of Selectmen to be active in driving update with Steering Committee

- Review and encourage demographic diversity throughout each chapter of the Master Plan
- Individual Board Members begin to define priorities for upcoming master Plan update - **March 2017**
- Update Master Plan to add Economic Development Chapter - assigned to **Julie Gilman**

GOAL #2: *Continue to Improve Economic Development Program*

- Participate and complete Economic Development Strategic Plan
- Intensive Zoning Review
- End of year MRI report update on Community Development Planning approval process - **December 2016**
- Continue to encourage Commercial Development: Epping Rd., Portsmouth Ave., Lincoln St.

GOAL #3: *Community Relations and Outreach*

- Improve Communications Internally and Externally
 - ✓ **Internal:** Board of Selectmen, other Boards, committees, Staff
 - ✓ Streaming of meetings
 - ✓ Improve Selectmen communications through Department Head reports
 - ✓ Hold Board “meet and greets”
 - ✓ **External:** Businesses, organizations, citizens, volunteers
 - ✓ Utilize social media more often
 - ✓ Contact AHA for website review and possible updates for navigation capabilities and mobile-friendly

Continue working with Exeter School Board, Exeter Hospital, River Woods and Philips Exeter Academy

GOAL #4: *Capital Improvement Strategy*

- | | |
|--|------------------------------------|
| ▪ Take Advantage of low interest rates | ▪ Court Street |
| ▪ Potential Projects | ▪ Westex |
| ▪ Facilities | ▪ Water Facility on Portsmouth Ave |
| ▪ Water/Sewer Extensions | ▪ Sidewalks/Cross Walks |
| ▪ Recreation Proposal | ▪ Roads |

To be discussed and vetted for budget season **September 2016**

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